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31 March 1950

MEMORANDUM

TO: Joint OSO/OPC Communications Board

FROM: Chief, Communications Division, OSO

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

SUBJECT: Radio Base Station Considerations, Southwestern Asia

1. The following paper is an up-to-date report on an informal check being made on the Southwestern Asian area in view of a possible requirement for a radio base station site. [redacted] was consulted and agreed with the facts as presented. Political and technical considerations virtually eliminated all points other than [redacted] is presently being negotiated for).

2. The [redacted] in contrast to the [redacted] is making somewhat of an effort to cooperate with the United States Government. A new ambassador has recently been sent there from the United States, and it is expected that he will improve relations beyond the present level. It can therefore be considered that a possibility exists for successful negotiation with the [redacted] for permission to place a CIA base radio station at or near [redacted]

6. [redacted] - A definite possibility exists that a class B station could be established [redacted] probably in or near [redacted] This government might possibly grant permission for such a station. More difficulty might be encountered in securing a receptive attitude from our State Department concerning such a project. Tenability here is not too good and the area should

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not be considered for a class A station.

25X1 7. The future plans [] include several radio operations in this
25X1 section of Asia. A station at [] would be useful only for the []
25X1 [] area. Other areas would be
covered by our other contemplated class A station in the Far East.

25X1 8. Considerable file material is available [] due to OSS opera-
25X1 tions there during the war. There are still people available in OSO who have
25X1 had operational experience there. []
[]

9. Other points in Southwestern Asia were investigated and found to be unsatisfactory for various reasons. These points are listed below.

25X1 (a) [] This government is not too friendly at present, and
would not be likely to grant permission for establishment of a CIA base
station in their country. Physical security might be poor due to lack
of proper control of this government over its people.

25X1 (b) [] This government might well be unreceptive to our
25X1 requests. Physical security could be very poor due to the proximity
of Communist China and military weakness []

25X1 (c) [] Physical security is definitely poor here. Recent
reports indicate vast amounts of destruction and disorder caused by
uncontrollable Communist terrorist groups.

25X1 (d) [] This territory is [] controlled and this govern-
ment is very difficult to negotiate with on matters of this sort. Security
and tenability might be poor due to the closely surrounding proximity of
[]

25X1 (e) [] This area is unsatisfactory from the supply stand-
25X1 point due to the rugged terrain and distance from the sea. []
25X1 []

10. This office will continue to be alert for other possibilities in this area and will report any future findings.

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